

C. Remarks

Claims 1-5, 7-16 and 18-26, with claims 1 and 12 being independent. The independent claims have been amended to clarify the invention. Support for the amendment may be found, *inter alia*, in Figs. 7-9 and the corresponding text in the specification, for example at page 24, lines 14-21. Claims 2, 3, 13 and 14 have been amended to reflect the changes in claims 1 and 12. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the present claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10-16, 18, 19 and 21-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,729,708 (Fujii '708) in view of *In re Harza* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,290,334 (Ishinaga). Claims 9 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Fujii in view of *In re Harza* and Ishinaga and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,629,742 (Fujii '742). The grounds for rejection are respectfully traversed.

Prior to addressing the merits of rejection, Applicant would like to review some of the features and advantages of the presently claimed invention. That invention, in pertinent part, is related to a printhead substrate (independent claim 1) and to a printhead (independent claim 12). The printhead and the printhead substrate have a plurality of driving circuit arrays. These driving circuit arrays are provided along one of the respective printing element arrays disposed in an area between two adjacent ink supply channels for individually driving printing elements of the printing element arrays.

Importantly, the printhead and the printhead substrate have first wirings and

second wirings, which are dedicated, respectively, to one of the plurality of driving circuit arrays provided corresponding to one of the two adjacent ink supply channels, extending from a shared wiring portion to this driving circuit array. As a result, the area needed for the circuit arrangement is reduced compared to that in a conventional printhead substrate/printhead, in which circuits and drivers are arranged to a plurality of ink supply channels, respectively.

As acknowledged by the Examiner, Fujii '708 does not disclose or suggest a shared wiring, a shared signal and two adjacent ink supply channels. However, the Examiner has alleged that since Fujii '708 discloses a color printhead, a plurality of ink supply channels are taught.

Applicant respectfully submits that even if the Examiner is correct in that Fujii '708 teaches a plurality of ink supply channels, this reference fails to disclose or suggest the claimed connective arrangement between a shared wiring portion and first and second wirings since the shared wiring portion is not taught.

Ishinaga cannot cure the deficiencies of Fujii '708. Ishinaga discloses a printhead in which plural printing element arrays corresponding to plural colors have a shared wiring portion. However, Applicant would like to point out that such a wiring is shared by plural semiconductor chips arrayed in a single direction. As such, Ishinaga, like Fujii '708, fails to disclose or suggest the claimed connective arrangement in which first and second wirings respectively extend from a shared wiring portion to the driving circuit arrays as claimed.

Fujii '742 was cited by the Examiner for a teaching of the time-divisional drive control circuit, the shift register circuit and the latch circuit. Even if assumed, *arguendo*, that the Examiner is correct, Fujii '742 does not disclose or suggest first and second wirings that respectively extend from a shared wiring portion to the driving circuit arrays as claimed.

In conclusion, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited references, whether considered separately or in any combination, do not disclose or suggest all of the presently claimed elements. Wherefore, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and expedient passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Applicant's attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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